

# STATE of WISCONSIN



## OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS*; on the evening of October 8, 1871, a forest fire was ignited and proceeded to rip through the small northeastern city of Peshtigo and into surrounding counties, culminating in one of the most destructive and deadly forest fires in American history; and

*WHEREAS*; while the exact circumstances and sequence of events that led to the fire remain unconfirmed, it is thought that the Peshtigo Fire might have been started by railroad workers clearing land for tracks after an unusually hot and dry summer; and

*WHEREAS*; the Peshtigo Fire burned well into the following day, and by the time it was finally extinguished, it had scorched over one million acres of land, all but obliterating the city of Peshtigo along with many other cities, towns, and communities throughout Oconto, Marinette, Shawano, Brown, Kewaunee, Door, Manitowoc, and Outagamie counties; and

*WHEREAS*; it is estimated that the Peshtigo Fire caused up to \$169 million in damages and, most tragically, left anywhere from 1,200 to 2,400 Wisconsinites dead, including more than 800 Peshtigo residents, and thousands more without a home; and

*WHEREAS*; despite the devastating human toll of the fire and its obvious historical and cultural significance to our state and country, the Peshtigo Fire has unfortunately been largely overshadowed by other famous fires that occurred throughout the Midwest on that same fateful October day in 1871, including the Great Chicago Fire; and

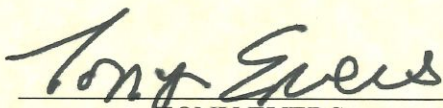
*WHEREAS*; today, as we recognize the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Peshtigo Fire, the state of Wisconsin joins the city of Peshtigo in mourning all those who lost their lives and in celebrating all residents—past, present, and future—of “The City Rebuilt from Ashes” for their incredible resilience and unwavering commitment to preserving the history of the Peshtigo Fire for generations to come;

*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,  
do hereby proclaim October 8, 2021, as the

## 150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE PESHTIGO FIRE

throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance  
to all our state’s residents.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have  
hereunto set my hand and caused the Great  
Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be  
affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of  
Madison this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September 2021.

  
TONY EVERS  
GOVERNOR

By the Governor

  
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State

